
Job Title	GrowTH Advocate Worker
Start date	ASAP (Feb 2024 Ideally)
Wage	£25,000 pro rata and basic pension
Contract	Temporary contract to May 2024
Annual Leave	25 days (plus Bank Holidays), pro rata
Line Manager	Director
Location	E14 ONU
Working hours	Monday to Friday: Usual shifts 9am – 5pm but occasionally a 7.30am-3.30pm will be necessary. 35 hours per week. On call (on the phone only) 6pm-10.30pm seven days a week, for one week in three.
Applications by	ASAP – Will recruit until we find the right candidate
Interviews	ASAP
Applications	Please email naomi@thisisgrowth.org with your CV and a completed application form.

ABOUT

GrowTH is a partnership of churches in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. For 13 years, we have run a volunteer-led night shelter in church halls across the borough. Homeless men and women are referred to the shelter by our local referral agencies.

Every guest in the shelter is offered assistance in securing more permanent accommodation. GrowTH also manages a small number of supported homes locally where we assist formerly homeless men and women in transitioning from homelessness and towards greater independence.

GrowTH is a non-denominational Christian charity, working with churches from a variety of backgrounds. We are an evangelistic project; as well as receiving practical care and help, guests have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith if they wish.

We are looking to recruit a self-motivated Advocate Worker that will be passionate about ‘getting alongside’ our guests and advocating on their behalf for more permanent accommodation and access to services to meet any support needs that they may have. The Advocate Worker will be based in the GrowTH Daycentre.

OVERVIEW OF JOB ROLE

1. Management of an emergency night shelter for homeless men and women
2. Ensuring that guests have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith
3. Assisting a rolling caseload of up to 8 homeless men and women to secure more permanent housing
4. Participate in the running of GrowTH

DUTIES OF JOB ROLE

Management of emergency night shelter for homeless men and women

- Managing relationships with local referral agencies and taking daily referrals for the shelter
- Managing referrals and risk assessments of homeless men and women
- Liaising with lead volunteers for the safe and smooth running of the night shelter
- Monitoring the running of the shelter to ensure the values and policies of GrowTH are maintained
- Providing 'on call' phone cover for the night shelter volunteers for one week in three every evening between 6pm and 10.30pm; responding appropriately to incidents or disruption.

Ensuring that guests have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith

- Praying daily for the guests in the night shelter
- Sensitively and appropriately initiating conversations about faith and spiritual needs with guests
- Encouraging volunteers to be open about their faith, including managing introduction to Christianity courses and Bible studies
- Assisting guests in accessing local church communities, including Sunday services

Assisting a rolling caseload of up to 9 homeless men and women to secure more permanent housing

- Welcoming new guests to the shelter and ensuring they understand the rules and structure
- Supporting guests from a wide variety of backgrounds with a range of support needs
- Meeting with guests to understand why they are homeless and what obstacles to resettlement exist
- Producing a personalised resettlement plan with every guest to take steps towards more permanent housing. This can cover areas such as acquiring identification, applying for benefits, opening bank accounts, applying for housing, liaising with the council and other housing providers, addressing immigration issues and accessing legal advice.
- Assisting the guest in accessing other support services as needed, e.g. mental health support, substance misuse, etc.
- Advocating on the guest's behalf and thinking creatively to overcome resettlement obstacles
- Working with the guests in a sensitive manner that is suitable for vulnerable adults that can have support needs.
- Develop a working, up to date knowledge of the benefit system.

Other

- As with every small charity you will be expected to assist with other reasonable tasks as needed

PERSON SPECIFICATION

<p>Personal faith and values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A committed member of a local church. ● An understanding and practice of evangelical Christian belief and a lifestyle and conduct that are compatible with those beliefs. ● Experience of sharing faith with marginalised adults. ● An understanding of Jesus’ compassion for those without home, hope and help. ● Faith that God can transform, heal and save any person, regardless of their current situation. ● A passion to see cycles of homelessness broken.
<p>Desirable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experience of interacting and supporting marginalised adults. ● Experience of managing/leading volunteers in the church.
<p>Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excellent interpersonal skills ● Administrative skills, including the ability to prioritise tasks and manage competing demands. ● Good written and oral communication skills. ● Competent computer and Internet user, including the use of Microsoft Word and Excel.
<p>Personal Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ability to take initiative and work unsupervised at times. ● Ability to think creatively and problem solve. ● Ability to be flexible. ● Ability to be patient and remain calm in difficult circumstances. ● Understanding of what it means to be an “advocate”: working passionately to further the cause of another. ● Punctual and reliable. ● Ability to treat guests as equals and spend equal time with all guests. ● Interpersonal skills, to listen, get alongside and motivate homeless men and women and local church volunteers.
<p>Additional Expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The role will require flexibility with regards to hours.